IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus for electrically connecting electrodes of a device under test and conductive portions formed in a base plate, comprising:

a plurality of plate-like probes each for electrically connecting ~~said~~ one of the electrodes and ~~said~~ one of the conductive portions, having a tip to be pressed against ~~said~~ the one electrode on one end of ~~the~~ said probe and a curved outer face on one side of the width direction of ~~the~~ said probe and further having a first recess opening on said one side; ~~and~~

an assembler for assembling said probes ~~into said~~ onto the base plate such that said probes are arranged at intervals in the thickness direction and that said tips are projected on the side opposite to ~~said~~ the base plate; and

wherein said assembler includes a cover having a second recess elongated in the arranging direction of said probes and opening on the side of ~~said~~ the base plate; falling-off preventing members disposed in said second recesses in a state of extending in the arranging direction of said probes and being fitted into said first recesses so as to prevent said probes from falling off said cover; and a needle presser extending in the arranging direction of said probes and disposed in said second recesses ~~so as to make~~ for making said outer faces of said probes contact ~~said~~ the conductive portions.

2. (original) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein said falling-off preventing members are received in said first recesses in a state of close fit.

3. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said probe further includes a third recess opening on the other side in said width direction and wherein at least a part of said needle presser is fitted into said third recess.

4. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of~~

~~claims 1 through 3~~, wherein said cover further has a plurality of slots communicating to said second recesses and opening on the side of ~~said~~ the base plate and on the side opposite thereto and arranged at intervals in the arranging direction of said probes; wherein said probes extend within said slots to project said tips from said slots toward the side opposite to ~~said~~ the base plate.

5. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 4, wherein said cover has fourth recess opening toward the side opposite to ~~said~~ the base plate ~~so as to receive~~ for receiving said device under test and communicating to said slots, said probes projecting their tips into said fourth recesses.

6. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 5~~, wherein said cover further has a fifth recess communicating to a longitudinal end portion of said second recess, and wherein said falling-off preventing member is fitted into said fifth recess at a longitudinal end portion thereof.

7. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 6~~, wherein said probes are pressed against said conductive portion by said needle presser.

8. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 7~~, wherein said probes have the other end side brought into contact with a face forming said second recesses.